

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DECEMBER 11, 1969

FROM: EDWARD V. HANRAHAN
STATE'S ATTORNEY
2600 S. CALIFORNIA
CHICAGO, ILL. 60608

STATE'S ATTORNEY HANRAHAN REPORTS RESULTS
ON BLACK PANTHER'S APARTMENT RAID

One Chicago paper has headlined that Superintendent Conlisk has ordered a "probe" of the events which occurred at 2337 West Monroe Street on December 4. I called Superintendent Conlisk yesterday and asked him to do this.

Yesterday we made public the events which occurred at 2337 West Monroe Street on December 4, 1969 when our officers sought to enter those premises with a search warrant. Any reading of that account clearly shows that the State's Attorneys' police did, in fact, carry out their duties with courage, restraint and professional discipline.

The integrity and character of our officers is further demonstrated by their request that they be permitted to take lie detector tests. However, we have no doubt at all about the truth of their account of those events or of the legality of their actions. We have denied their request for fear that granting it would suggest some doubt on our part. We challenge the occupants of that apartment to be as forthright as our police officers. If they will take a lie detector test we will then grant our officers request that they be permitted to do so.

We take this extraordinary step, even though it is established practice that neither the prosecution nor the defense can use such results in court. Because of that legal restriction, acceptance of our challenge cannot jeopardize the defendants constitutional rights.

December 4, 1969

This morning, pursuant to a search warrant, State's Attorney's Police attempted to search the first floor apartment at 2337 W. Monroe Street to seize sawed-off shot guns and other illegal weapons stored there. Our office had reliable information that this location was a depot for such illegal weapons gathered by members of the Black Panther Party.

As soon as Sgt. Daniel Groth and Officer James Davis, leading our men, announced their office, occupants of the apartment attacked them with shotgun fire. The officers immediately took cover. The occupants continued firing at our policemen from several rooms within the apartment.

Thereafter, three times Sgt. Groth ordered all his men to cease firing and told the occupants to come out with their hands up. Each time, one of the occupants replied, "Shoot it out," and they continued firing at the police officers. Finally, the occupants threw down their guns and were arrested.

The immediate, violent criminal reaction of the occupants in shooting at announced police officers emphasizes the extreme viciousness of the Black Panther Party. So does ^{their} ~~them~~ refusal to cease firing at the police officers when urged to do so several times.

Fortunately only one police officer was wounded. We wholeheartedly commend the police officers for their bravery, their remarkable restraint and their discipline in the face of this Black Panther attack -- as should every decent citizen in our community.